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PRESS RELEASE

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**MAYOR KENNETH A. GIBSON'S
ADDRESS TO
THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION
NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

Two hundred years ago the founders of our great nation declared that governments are instituted among men to secure certain rights, and among those rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Any reading of our national Constitution and the Bill of Rights clearly indicates that individual human rights were of vital concern to the delegates at those early Constitutional Conventions. But when they spoke of rights, they meant the rights of citizens, people, not the rights of government officials.

In the last few years and still today, many people in our country have lost faith in those who hold elected and appointed positions in government. They have seen some officials more concerned with their own personal "pursuit of happiness" than with working for the people's rights to life and liberty. The people of our country have been shocked and depressed by the actions of some of our national leaders and lawmakers. Past revelations and more recent allegations of deceit, misconduct and impropriety at public expense have diverted attention and energy from the real and vital issues which remain unattended.

This nation, and indeed, the world is waiting and watching to see if we respond to the needs of our people and our country.

They want to know if we will practice politics to better the human condition or play political games to preserve our own positions. No longer will they be satisfied by empty promises; nor will they accept excuses for doing nothing. Without question the Democratic Party is in a unique position. We are in a position to stimulate renewed faith in our government. We can lead the way towards greater confidence in our future and in the principles upon which this nation was founded. We can help to insure domestic tranquility and promote the general welfare. However, we can do this only if we have the courage and commitment to provide our people with the things they need and rightly deserve.

We have an opportunity--and I believe a mandate--to provide the new leadership that is needed. We can improve the quality of life for all Americans by moving together to do those things we know should be done: